GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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WINNOWING GRAIN IN TURKEY

(See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Kashmir: Where a New Ruler Takes the Throne

AMID scenes of oriental splendor the Maharajah of Kashmir ascended recently to the throne left vacant last fall by the death of his uncle.

The ceremonies lasted more than a week. There were processions, festivals and feasts. The Maharajah's favorite pony went through the streets with a king's ransom of emeralds on his back. But the new ruler can afford splendor. His annual income, it is said, is more than $5,000,000.

Kashmir's real wealth, however, cannot be measured in terms of money. Anyone making a list of the ten most richly endowed of Nature's beauty spots would have to include, in a representative list, this vale set amidst the towering Himalayas. One traveler asserts "it is impossible to know what color and depth and proportion are until one has visited this Happy Valley in the Himalayas."

"The Battlements of Some Fairy City"

The State of Kashmir in India spreads over an area equal to that of Minnesota, but it is usually the so-called "Happy Valley" that is associated with the name of Kashmir, The vale that has inspired so many writers of poetry, prose, and music is not on the slopes of the Himalayas, but set down among them. It has given to the world one of the most beautiful and delicate of all fabrics made by human hands—the Kashmir (or cashmere) shawl.

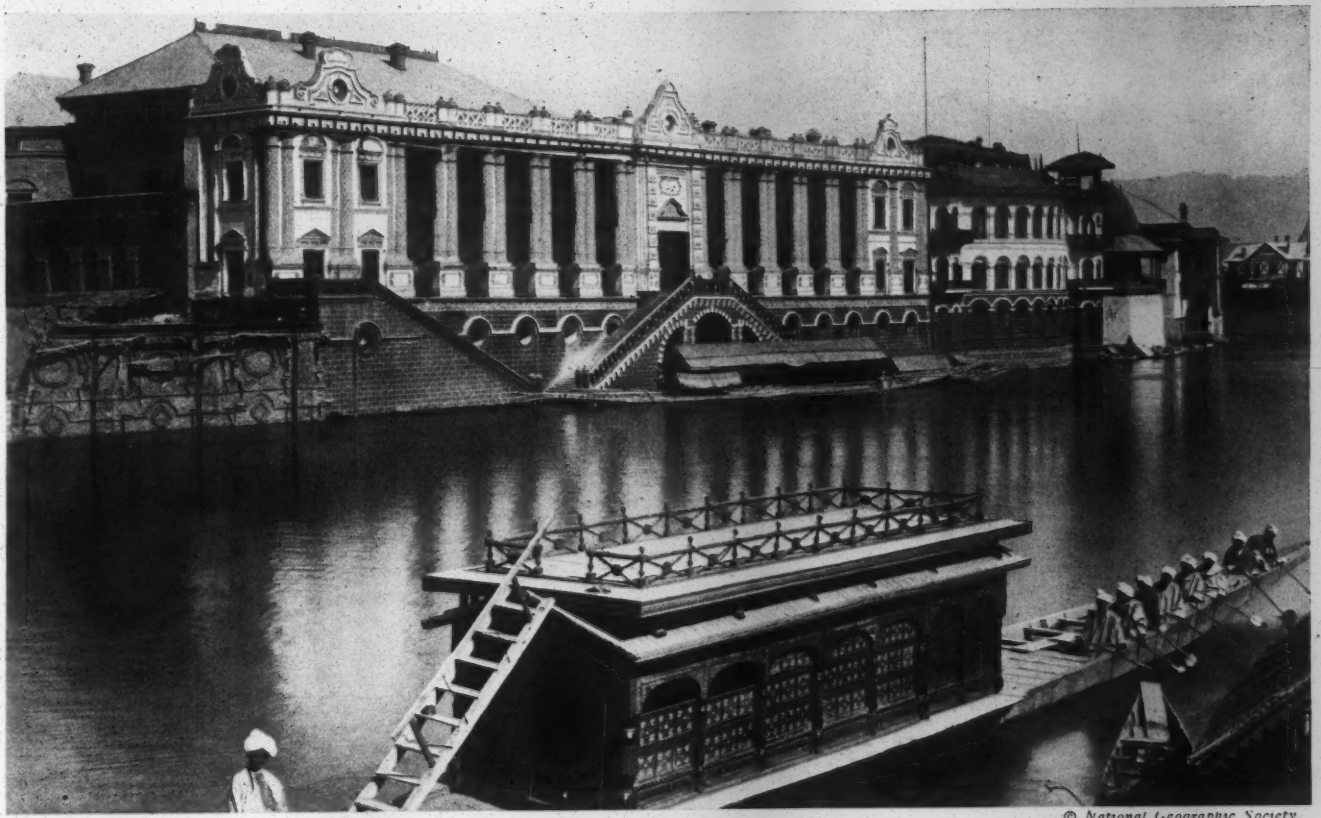
The Vale of Kashmir, a wide, level plain 84 miles long and 20 to 25 miles wide, has been compared to the peaceful Thames Valley, England, with a girdle of high, snow-capped mountains added. It has charming combinations of lake and mountain scenery, wooden chalets and winding roads. It is much like Switzerland, except that there is always a white horizon, a complete circle of snowy peaks. On a clear day, the mountains glisten in the sunshine like "the battlements and towers of some fairy city of purest marble."

These mountains, the loftiest in the world, have helped to make Kashmir the beauty spot it is to-day. They are Kashmir's strongest barriers against the advance of the white man's civilization. No railroad enters Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, because the loose rocks in the mountain passes carry away everything along the mountain sides. Not infrequently these landslides take a toll of human life.

Latitude of the Carolinas

With a latitude about that of Damascus, or of the Carolinas in the United States, and a protecting wall of mountains, the Vale of Kashmir has none of those extremes of heat and cold which make the districts to the north and to the south so uncomfortable at times. Flowers and trees of many varieties grow in abundance. Sometimes a sudden change in temperature nearby will result in a snowstorm on the surrounding mountain peaks, a vivid and interesting spectacle from the valley. In the winter the mercury drops a little below freezing. During the summer the thermometer sometimes shows a temperature of 105 degrees.

The weaving of shawls used to be the main industry, but those who made them were practically slaves. They were never allowed to leave Kashmir. It



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THE SHER GARHI, PALACE OF THE MAHARAJAH, OF KASHMIR AND JAMMU, WITH THE ROYAL BARGE IN THE FOREGROUND

Kashmir's ruler, a Dogra Rajput by caste and a Hindu in religion, is the chief of state in a province two-thirds of whose people are Mohammedans. His winter palace is in Jammu, 4,000 feet lower than Srinagar and 184 miles to the south (see Bulletin No. 1).

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The American Elk Comes Back "Home" by Train

TWO HUNDRED American elk are returning to New England, their old stamping ground. They are going down East from Yellowstone Park riding on a special train. It will cost $80,000, it is said, to return these elk to a private Appalachian range. More of these picturesque animals may be brought later.

At one time the elk was the most wide ranging of America's hoofed game animals. It occupied all the continent from north of Peace River, Canada, south to southern New Mexico, east to central Massachusetts and North Carolina and west to the Pacific coast of California. Like the buffalo it was equally at home in the forests east of the Mississippi River and on the open plains flanking the Rocky Mountains. The elk grazed from sea level to above timberline on lofty mountain ranges.

But the elk was exterminated in the East and could be found only in western Canada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and the Pacific Coast States. The last elk was killed in Pennsylvania about 60 years ago; in Michigan and Minnesota 40 years ago. The main body of the survivors are now in the Yellowstone Park region. The readiness with which they thrive in captivity has led to serious thought of elk farming as an industry.

"Elk" Not an Accurate Name

By a curious mistake the early settlers applied the name "elk" where the name "American Wapiti" would have been better. The name "elk" belongs to the European relative of our moose. Our wapiti is a close cousin to the European elk. It is the handsomest and, next to the moose, the largest member of the deer family in America. The old bulls, weighing more than 800 pounds, bear superb widely branched antlers, which give them a noble poise. The American elk is the only American deer which has a well-marked light rump-patch. Young elk are white spotted like the fawns of other deer.

In the West, before the settlement of their range crowded them back, large numbers of elk or wapiti lived throughout the year on the plains and among the foothills. They have now become mountain animals, spending the spring and summer in the timberline forests and mountain meadows. There many bands linger until the heavy snows of early winter force them down to the foothills and valleys. During the last days of their abundance in the Rocky Mountains winter herds numbering thousands gathered in Estes Park and other foothill valleys.

Over 40,000 in United States

Each bull elk gathers a small herd of cows during the fall. At the beginning of the mating season the bulls wander widely through the high forest glades. Their musical bugling pierces the silence of the wilderness with stirring notes. The appearance of a full-antlered buck on the skyline of some bare ridge presents a most noble picture of wild life.

There are probably over 40,000 elk still left in the United States. Of these more than 30,000 are located in Wyoming, mainly in and about Yellowstone National Park.

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has been said that every shawl cost the eyesight of one or more persons. The shawl industry was brought to an end by the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. France had been the largest buyer of Kashmir shawls, but the debt imposed upon her by Germany left little money for foreign trade. About the same time many weavers died in a famine. The industry never recovered in Kashmir, although good imitations are made elsewhere.

A treaty between the State of Kashmir and the British Government by which six shawls of fine quality must be paid yearly, is said to be the only thing that prevents the knowledge of the art from dying out among the natives. One of the most beautiful designs is the "cone" pattern. Another favorite is the "ring" shawl, which, though not transparent, is so soft that it can be easily drawn through a finger ring. American whalers and sailing vessels sailing the Pacific fifty years ago often made their way into the ports of India to obtain these prized light wraps as gifts for the women waiting at home.

An Ice-Fed River of a "Main Street"

The main surprise and the delight of this romantic valley to-day is Srinagar, the capital, "the Venice of the East." Through the vale winds the Jhelum River, fed by the icy Himalayan springs, occasionally forming beautiful lakes of sky-blue water. The "Main Street" of Srinagar is this river. Facing the river are the palace of the Maharajah, the government buildings, and dwellings. On the river, and the numerous canals that intersect it, live 15,000 people in boats. Over the Jhelum are many large bridges of wood, built on piers of crossed horizontal logs. What the little houses lack in architectural elegance, they make up in picturesqueness. In the spring their sod-covered roofs blossom forth with fresh green grass, delicate mauve irises, and in some cases with gorgeous scarlet Kashmir tulips.

Near the capital, and gracing the shores of the lakes of the Jhelum, are the beautiful summer gardens of many of the former rulers of the country. Some of them, such as the Shalimar, where the Aryan youth sang of the pale hands he loved, are in ruins, but nature has been kind. Even in ruins they possess a dreamy loveliness that puts man's handiwork to shame. On an autumn evening, when the avenues of chenar trees are tinged with gold and russet, when the lofty mountains behind them take on every shade of blue and purple, and the long lines of fountains sparkle in the rays of the setting sun, it would be difficult to find a match for them elsewhere.

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Albania Gives Up Arms for Prosperity

NO NEWS is usually the best news from Albania. When Albania does appear in the cable reports it appears as a country torn by internal strife or involved in Balkan border war scares.

Recent news from the little nation on the rugged Dalmatian Coast lying between Greece and Yugoslavia, shows peaceful prosperity in Albania. Ahmed Bey Zoghu, the Albanian President, has succeeded in many reforms. His most notable accomplishment is the disarmament of the people.

The Albanians are probably neither so good nor so bad as they are often painted. Their chief desire is to be allowed to manage their own affairs and to work their little farms in the fertile valleys, to herd their sheep and weave their garments of wool. They do not submit easily to government. They have no love for chance strangers. They are slow to accept change in the manner of living or of cultivating the fields.

The mountains of Albania are practically unexplored. Mineral pitch, or asphaltum, has been known since the time of the Romans, and deposits are found near Valona. Traces of petroleum, too, have been found by Italians. Copper and iron are believed to exist in the hills about the Malik Valley, and coal, silver, and lead are reported present elsewhere in the mountains.

Gold mines were worked in ancient times and Albanian silver was known to the Venetians, but the whole mountain country lay neglected for ages. Road building engineered by foreign armies during the World War is proving a boon to the development of Albania.

The climate of Albania is considered healthful in the uplands. It is subject, however, to violent changes, which are trying to the stranger. But when a traveler, moving rapidly about the country in a motor—probably the best way to travel—rushes several thousand feet from a mountain height, cold and windy and probably snow-covered, into a warm, sunshiny valley and back again in the fraction of an hour, it is well to have a care.

May is the pleasantest month of the year. The long valleys paralleling the coast then look their best. Snow lies in the mountains until well into the spring. Since the tallest peaks are not higher than 8,000 feet snow cannot last all the year.

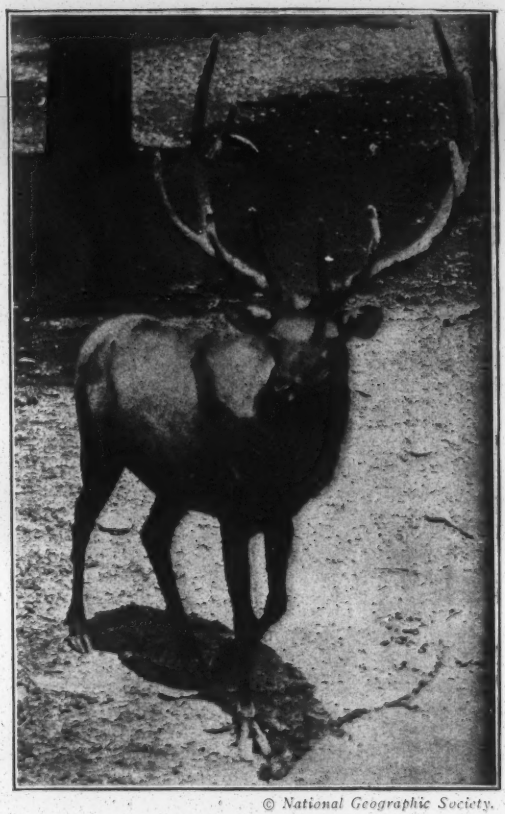
Before the arrival of the Allied soldiers few highways existed in Albania and Macedonia. There was the old Turkish road from Santi Quaranta to Saloniki, with its branches in the former country south to Janina, in old Greece, and north to Berat. These roads were improved and to them added permanent highways, well traced and skillfully built. Two of these are the magnificent 55-mile turnpike from Valona to Tepeleni and the highway from Santi Quaranta to Valona. The latter is probably one of the most interesting examples of road-building to be found the world over. It was built by Italian soldiers and several thousand Austrian prisoners, aided by the Albanians of the country-side, who were paid by the Italian Government. It extends 81 miles, for the most part along the Adriatic, but high above the sea. Built for the permanent use of the people of southern Albania, as much as for war needs, it is, like the old Roman roads, made to last through the centuries.

During the last few years great interest has been shown in returning elk to parts of their former range. These efforts are meeting with much success. The animals thrive and increase rapidly and people do not mind having them around. This is well shown by the active interest taken by both cattle and sheep owners in northern Arizona in regard to a band of elk introduced a few years ago on their mountain stock ranges. The stockmen watch over these animals, insuring them against harm, so the herd is rapidly increasing.

Killed for Two Teeth

In contrast there is the villainous work of poachers, who shoot elk for their two canine teeth and leave the body to the coyotes. More than 500 elk are said to have been slaughtered by hunters for this purpose near the border of Yellowstone National Park during one winter.

Bulletin No. 2, March 22, 1926.



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THE AMERICAN ELK

This splendid beast is also known as the wapiti and the Rocky Mountain elk. It easily adapts itself to a new environment and herds increase rapidly even in zoological parks.

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Likin, the Dragon that Lives on Chinese Trade

PEKING is the scene of an important international conference. American diplomats have laid before representatives of China and the great powers a proposal to free China of foreign restrictions on her tariff levies. In return they ask China to abolish the "likin."

The real dragon of modern China is "likin," in the opinion of foreign traders and many Chinese. The abolition of a similar tax by the Constitution of the United States helped save the Union. The Americans at Peking may be doing for China what George Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin and others did for the colonies at Philadelphia in 1787. It is true also, that the German Union of 1870 gained great strength by abolishing a tax similar to the Chinese likin.

Likin Stations Are Toll Houses

The nearest equivalent which English has for the Chinese word "likin" is "per cent." The Chinese term means "per mille," that is, a tax measured according to thousands. It has taken on a different meaning in the course of years until now a "likin" station is known as a "squeeze" station. Likin stations are toll houses where taxes are levied on goods being transported. While some of the collections made at the "squeeze" stations go to the central government, most of the revenue has fallen into the hands of the provincial governors or the district mandarins.

From Shanghai to Soochow it is 84 miles. Goods going from one city to the other has to pass eight likin stations. At the first and last stations all goods are dutiable. At the rest all goods must be examined and some taxed. There is scarcely a single article that does not in that journey pay at least three taxes.

If Applied to America

If a parallel system were set up on the New York-Philadelphia highway, all the motor trucks would be compelled to stop at customs stations in New York, Hoboken, Newark, Elizabeth, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton and Philadelphia. At each station the entire contents of the truck would be ransacked and the drivers would be compelled to pay a certain sum. Plainly the road run of a few hours would lengthen into a day or two. The expense of tax and time would put a burden on business and business would shift it to the buyer in high prices. In the end commerce by truck would be smothered. This cycle is complete in China where foreign goods commonly penetrate only a short distance from the free treaty ports. Even domestic trade dribbles along in a weak fashion because of the tax.

Unlike most Chinese creations, the likin is not old. It was invented about 1850 to raise money for the support of the army suppressing the Taiping rebellion. Its success as a source of cash soon recommended it to governors of various towns and provinces.

Continued existence of likin recognizes that China is a collection of semi-independent states such as the United States and Germany were when they were young.

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AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR ALBANIAN FARMS

This tractor plow was used on an experimental farm near Valona, Albania. It is in marked contrast to the ancient crooked-stick plow which is still a favorite with the Albanian tenants and farm owners.

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Angora: Capital of Turkey, City of St. Paul

IN THE past when news came from Turkey it usually come from Constantinople.

To-day Turkish news comes most often from Angora, the new capital, which has elbowed Constantinople out of the way. Angora is the center from which radiate the reforms that are remaking Turkey on the model of European countries.

Angora has had a checkered career. Once it was the chief city of the Galatians to whom St. Paul wrote.

The city was founded by Midas of the touch of gold. It was overrun two centuries before Christ by far-wandering cousins of the Irishman of to-day. It was a great and wealthy community under Rome and Byzantium. But great was its fall. Recent generations have known Angora chiefly because it gave its name to a long-haired goat.

Galatians Remote Kinsmen of Irish

The remote kinsmen of the Irish who figure in the history of Angora, were 20,000 Celts from central Europe. They were unable to push into Greece, so they decided to try their luck across the Hellespont. After raiding the country for half a century they were forced to settle around Angora, then known as Ancyra. Their country became known as Galatia. There St. Paul is supposed to have founded a Christian Church to the congregation of which he addressed his "Epistle to the Galatians." In the 4th century the Celtic language was still to be heard in Galatia.

The Celtic invaders were always in the minority and were finally absorbed, as the Norman conquerors of England were absorbed by the Saxons. Many observers profess to see the effects of Celtic blood in the people of Angora to-day. They describe them as lighter in complexion than the people of other parts of the Near East, and "the most genial of the Mohammedans of Asia Minor."

Important as Roman Frontier Outpost

Ancyra dwindled to a village under Celtic rule, but following the annexation of Galatia to the Roman Empire in 25 B. C. and during the hundred years in which it was maintained as the Roman frontier province, the city took on great importance. One of the most famous of the ruins of Asia Minor is that of a beautiful marble temple in Angora dedicated "to Rome and Augustus."

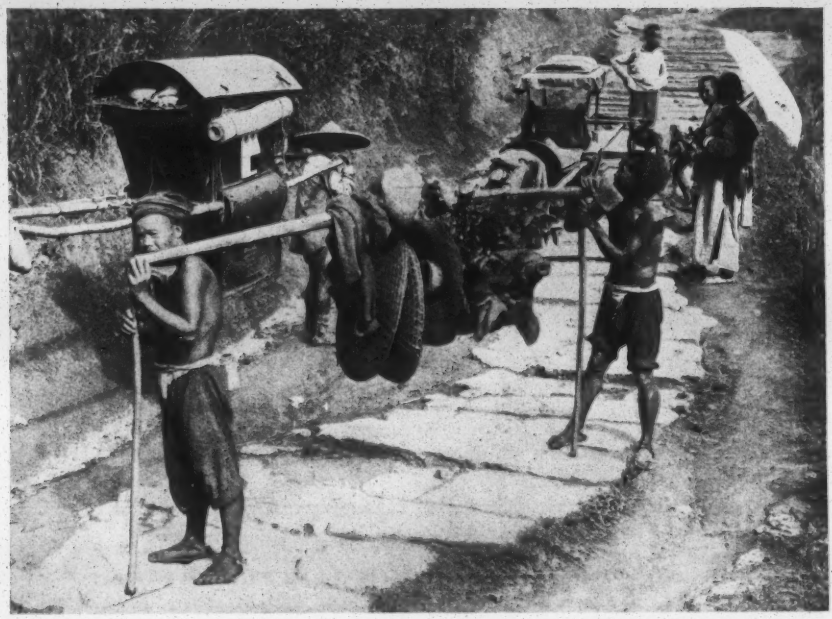
During the Byzantine period Ancyra became even more important. Its position between Constantinople and Mesopotamia and Persia made it the metropolis of interior Asia Minor. The rising power of the Turks was indicated by the fall of Ancyra into their hands more than a hundred years before the fall of Constantinople. But Ancyra was captured shortly afterwards by the Christian Crusaders during one of their farthest sorties inland. It was held by them for 18 years until 1360, when it again fell into Turkish hands.

Angora Animals Have Long Hair

Though marble reminders of its ancient glory are scattered about in the Angora of to-day, it is a dingy city of mud brick houses and narrow streets. A

The problem of the likin has been considered by international councils before Agreements have been made that foreign traders could purchase through tickets for their goods at the point of departure to free shipments from likin toll. But even in the recent meetings of the conference there have been reports that provincial war lords have ignored these pacts. They were charged with levying double and triple likin to support their armies.

Bulletin No. 4, March 22, 1926.



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A MAN'S BACK IS CHEAP TRANSPORT IN CHINA

On the well-worn roads of China the provincial rulers have set up likin stations every few miles to get taxes. Note the pig and other products carried on the single pole in the foreground. The boxlike carriages in the background are for human passengers.

mosque is built against one of the marble walls of the noble old Augustan temple. The walls and gates of the city are constructed of fragments of demolished Greek and Roman buildings, colonnades and other structures.

Angora Animals Have Long Hair

The city is 220 miles southeast of Constantinople. It has a population of about 30,000. It is perched on a rocky plateau to the north of which are fertile valleys and to the south of which stretch plains merging finally into a great desert. On these southern plains are pastured large herds of sheep and goats with the long silky hair which has made the name, Angora, familiar to Western ears. Large quantities of wool and mohair are exported.

Cats, and to a less extent dogs and other animals in the neighborhood of Angora, have unusually long silky hair. It is believed that the climate and perhaps the soil of the region are responsible for this peculiar development.

Bulletin No. 5, March 22, 1926.

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HOW ANATOLIAN PEASANT WOMEN WIELD THE HOE

If it were not that the soil of most of the cultivatable land in Asia Minor is extremely fertile, the Turkish peasant would find it almost impossible to make a living, for his agricultural methods, as well as his implements, are very primitive. The climate is his ally, however, for, although the winters are cold, the sun is excessively hot early in the year and there is practically no spring. His greatest handicap is the tax-collector, who is merciless in his exactions; in fact, the small agriculturist in Turkey was said at one time to have been the most highly taxed individual in the world.